Sapir, E

Division of Anthropology, Geological Survey, Department of Mines, Ottawa,

June-Oct 1914
(29)

University of Toronto.

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE.

COPY.

Department of Mines,

Ottawa, June 19th, 1914

Mr. R. A. Falconer,

President of Toronto University,

Toronto, Ont.

Dear Sir:

I have been thinking for some time past that it is rather regrettable that the research work of the Division of Anthropology of the Geological Survey of Canada finds no counterpart in Canada, as yet, in university work in anthropology. It is probably too early as yet to try to establish definite courses in anthropology at our Canadian universities, though I have no doubt it will not be many years before courses of this type are offered. Meanwhile I wonder whether something could not be done to interest university publics in anthropological work by the giving of a series of public lectures on anthropology at the leading Eastern universities.

I have talked the matter over at some length with the Director of this institution and Deputy Minister of Mines, Mr. R. W. Brock, also with my colleagues of the Division, and we all seem agreed that it would be a most desirable plan if arrangements could be made with the heads of the different universities concerned for the members of the Anthropological Division to give such courses. I would suggest that arrangements be made for a course of say seven lectures, one to be given each month throughout the academic year, under the auspices of the university. The aim in such a course would be to present some of the leading ideas current in anthropology and to give somewhat of an understanding of the full scope of the subject. It seems to me that this is a more desirable end than to provide for merely entertaining

talks on very specific subjects. I have not yet planned the entire course, as I would like to get your opinion in regard to the matter before outlining our plan too definitely. I should think, though, that the introductory lecture might be devoted to defining the scope of anthropology in general, with some reference perhaps to its bearings on allied subjects, such as history sociology, medicine, law, general linguistics, and other interests well represented at present in our universities. A further lecture would deal with some of the main problems of physical anthropology, including a general treatment of the races of man. A third lecture might be devoted to some of the main problems, methods, and results of archaeological work, with particular reference to America in general or Canada in particular. The fourth lecture might be perhaps taken up with the languages of primitive peoples, special stress being laid on linguistic classifications and processes as such, and an attempt being made to show how the languages of primitive peoples are of direct interest to us in the study of the languages that are more often brought to our attention. The remaining three lectures of the series could be taken up with special problems in the culture of primitive peoples, such as industries, religion, and social organization.

I think you will see from the outline which I have given that the course is intended to be broad in character, and at the same time to appeal to a large number of varying interests. It will be possible for the Geological Survey to put at your disposal four, or perhaps even five, of its scientific staff, all of whom are members of the Anthropological Division, and each of whom has his special training, experience, and interests.

We all believe here that this is an excellent opportunity for the

leading universities of the East to avail themselves of the services of a number of anthropologists who will expect no remuneration for their work. The only expense to which the university would be put, and I believe that this would be considered a reasonable expense, is that of providing for the travelling expenses of the lecturers. I am sure, if you find the proposed course itself of enough interest to enlist your support, that this small financial consideration would be no obstacle.

I am writing also to the heads of Queen's University, McGill University, and Laval University, and I am very hopeful of my being able to come to a mutually satisfactory understanding with the heads of all four of the universities selected.

Yours very respectfully,

E. Sapir,

Head of Division of Anthropology,

Geological Survey of Canada.

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June 20th, 1914

E. Sapir, Esq.,

Department of Mines,

Ottawa.

Dear Sir:

In the absence of President Falconer in Europe I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th inst. regarding a course of lectures on anthropology to be delivered at the Eastern Universities. I am forwarding your letter and you will hear directly from the President.

From what I know of the situation I am sure the University of Toronto will be glad to co-operate with the Department of Mines in any way possible to forward this work, and I am sure the lecturers would receive a warm welcome in Toronto.

Yours very truly,

President's Secretary.

September 22nd, 1914

Dr. E. Sapir,

Ottawa.

Dear Dr. Sapir:

We are arranging for our course of World History lectures for the coming session. They are held in the third year twice a week and Anthropology is one of the subjects. I am wondering whether it would be possible for the department to give us two lectures on Anthropology each week in three successive weeks, probably early in November. Your letter to me last summer made the offer of one lecture a month, which would be rather more difficult, I am afraid, for us to arrange for in our regular course. With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

Brock

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DEPARTMENT OF MINES
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
R. W. BROCK, DIRECTOR.

OTTAWA. October 2nd, 1914.

Mr. R. W. Falconer,
President,
University of Toronto.

Dear Sir,-

I must apologise for delaying ~~in~~ an answer to your letter of September 22nd, in regard to our course of anthropological lectures. My reason for delaying was the absence on a personal trip of my colleague, Mr. Barbeau, who would be one of the contributors to the series. I wrote him for information as to the titles of the lectures that he would give, but have not as yet received an answer. I believe, however, I shall not go far wrong in putting him down for one or two lectures as given in the list. Please let me know whether the course will have to be restricted to six lectures, or whether it will be possible to add a seventh. I believe that the plan of the series will be somewhat better preserved if an extra lecture can be had.

The series as at present planned will be as follows:

1. What is Anthropology? - Dr. E. Sapir
2. Early Man (lantern slides) - F. H. S. Knowles
3. Primitive Industries (lantern slides) - H. I. Smith
4. Primitive Society - C. M. Barbeau
5. Primitive Religion - C. M. Barbeau
6. The languages of Primitive Peoples - Dr. E. Sapir
7. The Archaeology of Canada (lantern slides) - H. I. Smith

DEPARTMENT OF MINES
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R. W. BROCK, DIRECTOR.

OTTAWA.

If we are to restrict ourselves to six lectures, numbers 4 and 5 could be combined as:

4. Primitive Culture - C. M. Barbeau

If I hear meanwhile from Mr. Barbeau as to his wishes, I shall let you know in case any change of title is to be made. Please let me know at your early convenience on what dates you would want the foregoing series of lectures to be delivered. I presume that the travelling expenses of the lecturers will be borne by the University.

Thanking you for your interest in this matter, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

E. Sapir.

October 9th, 1914

Dr. E. Sapir,

Geological Survey,

Ottawa.

My dear Dr. Sapir:

I have received your letter suggesting an outline of courses in Anthropology. They seem to my committee to be very satisfactory. The only difficulty that stands in the way is that of expense. At present the financial condition of the University is such that we must economise in every direction, and I am afraid that it would be very difficult for us to obtain the one hundred and fifty dollars that would be necessary to pay travelling expenses. Would it be possible for the Geological Survey to send the lecturers to us free of cost ? You will realise that even in addition to our former difficulties the war has placed us in a still worse way financially.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

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October 15th, 1914

Dr. E. Sapir,

Department of Mines,

Ottawa.

My dear Dr. Sapir:

I regret very much that for the present year the Governors are unable to find the $150 which would be necessary to pay the expenses of the visiting lecturers in connection with the anthropological course. We have found it necessary to cut down our expenditure to a minimum and cannot secure extra funds from any source whatever at present. I hope you will not think that this means that we do not appreciate your offer. It would have given us great pleasure to have the lecturers come, and I hope that we may be able to avail ourselves of them in the future when times are better.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.